

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A static device for use with an unrestricted heart having an outer wall and at least one chamber, said device comprising:

a plurality of members configured to be positioned adjacent the epicardial surface of the heart; and

a connector joining the members, and said connector comprises a band configured for extending around the chamber and joining at least two of the members, wherein said members are fixed in a spaced relationship relative to each other such that at least two portions of the outer wall are displaced inwardly from the unrestricted position.

16. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members comprises an elongate shape.

17. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members has a shape wherein a length is substantially greater than a width.

18. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members comprises a substantially circular shape.

19. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, said members comprises an inner surface having a convex curved configuration toward the epicardial surface.

20. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, having first and second members, wherein said first and second member are positioned in a spaced relationship relative to each other about 180 degrees apart.

21. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, having a first member configured to be positioned adjacent the anterolateral surface of the chamber, and a second member configured to be positioned adjacent the posteromedial surface of the chamber.

22. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, having a first member configured to be positioned adjacent the anterolateral surface of the chamber, and a second member configured to be positioned adjacent the posterolateral surface of the chamber.

23. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, having first, second and third members, said first, second, and third members are positioned in a spaced relationship relative to each other about 120 degrees apart.

24. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 23, wherein the first member is configured to be positioned adjacent the anteroseptal portion of the chamber, the second member is configured to be positioned adjacent the posteroseptal portion of the chamber, and the third member is configured to be positioned adjacent the posterolateral portion of the chamber.

25. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members comprises a pad.
26. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 25, wherein the pad has an inner surface configured to be positioned adjacent the epicardial surface of the heart.
27. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members includes a pad portion.
28. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 25, wherein the pad comprises a biocompatible material.
29. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein said connector comprises a clamp.
30. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein the connector comprises a biocompatible material.
31. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein at least one of said members includes an opening.
32. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 15, wherein the connector is configured to be positioned adjacent a surface of the chamber.

33. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 32, wherein the connector is curved.

34. (Currently Amended) A static device for use with an unrestricted heart having an outer wall and at least one chamber, said device comprising,
a plurality of members ~~configured to be positioned adjacent the~~ on an epicardial surface of the heart; and
a first connector joining the members, the first connector having portions configured to be encased in the tissue of the heart, wherein the first connector is an elongate member that extends across the at least one chamber,

wherein said members are fixed in a spaced relationship relative to each other such that at least two portions of the outer wall are displaced inwardly from the unrestricted position.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 34, wherein the connector is configured to be inserted through a portion of the heart.

36. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 34, further comprising a second connector configured to join the plurality of members.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein the second connector has portions configured to be encased in the tissue of the heart.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein the second connector is straight.

40. (Currently Amended) A static device for use with a heart having at least one chamber, said device comprising:

a plurality of members ~~configured to be positioned adjacent the~~ on an epicardial surface of the heart; and

[[a]] an elongate connector joining the members, the connector extending across the at least one chamber.

wherein said members are positioned in a spaced relationship relative to each other to reconfigure the chamber of the heart as at least two contiguous communicating portions of truncated ellipsoids.

41. (Currently Amended) A static device for use with a heart having at least one chamber, said device comprising:

a plurality of members ~~configured to be positioned adjacent the~~ on an epicardial surface of the heart; and

at least one elongate connector ~~for extending through the chamber~~ joining the members together, wherein the connector extends across the at least one chamber.

42. (Currently Amended) A static device for use with an unrestricted heart having an outer wall and at least one chamber, said device comprising:

a plurality of members ~~configured to be positioned adjacent the~~ on an epicardial surface of the heart; and

[[a]] an elongate connector joining the members, wherein the elongate connector extends across the at least one chamber,

wherein said members are fixed in a spaced relationship relative to each other such that at least two discrete portions of the outer wall are displaced inwardly from the unrestricted position.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members comprises an elongate shape.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members has a shape wherein a length is substantially greater than a width.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members comprises a substantially circular shape.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, having first and second members, wherein said first and second members are positioned in a spaced relationship relative to each other about 180 degrees apart.

48. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, having a first member configured to be positioned adjacent the anterolateral surface of the chamber, and a

second member configured to be positioned adjacent the posteromedial surface of the chamber.

49. (Previously presented) The device of claim 42, having a first member configured to be positioned adjacent the anterolateral surface of the chamber, and a second member configured to be positioned adjacent the posterolateral surface of the chamber.

50. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 42, having first, second and third members, said first, second, and third members are positioned in a spaced relationship relative to each other about 120 degrees apart.

51. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 50, wherein the first member is configured to be positioned adjacent the anteroseptal portion of the chamber, the second member is configured to be positioned adjacent the posteroseptal portion of the chamber, and the third member is configured to be positioned adjacent the posterolateral portion of the chamber.

52. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members comprises a pad.

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52, wherein the pad has an inner surface configured to be positioned adjacent the epicardial surface of the heart.

54. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members includes a pad portion.

55. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 52, wherein the pad comprises a biocompatible material.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein the connector comprises a biocompatible material.

58. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein at least one of said members includes an opening.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42, wherein the connector comprises a first connector configured to be positioned adjacent the endocardium of the chamber.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 59, wherein the connector comprises a second connector.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Withdrawn) A method for reducing the wall tension on one of the chambers of the heart, comprising the steps of:

affixing a static brace external to the one chamber of the heart to reconfigure the chamber into at least two contiguous portions of truncated ellipsoids.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein the brace has at least two members, a fastener on the members, and a connector, the method further comprising the step of inserting the fastener into the heart wall of the heart.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 64 further comprising the step of positioning a portion of the connector adjacent the epithelium of the heart.

66. (Withdrawn) A device for reconfiguring a chamber of a natural heart, said device comprising:

a structure having a first and a second portion, said structure adapted to encircle the natural heart and to exert a constant inward displacement on at least two discrete portions of the exterior surface of one and only one chamber of the natural heart.

67. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 66, wherein said structure comprises a plurality of interconnected members.

68. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein said device has a structural shape adapted to exert differential displacement at predetermined locations of the exterior surface of the natural heart.

69. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein said first portion of said structure lies adjacent a basal surface of the natural heart.

70. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein said second portion of said structure lies adjacent an apical surface of the natural heart.

71. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein a first portion of said structure lies adjacent an anterolateral surface of a left ventricle.

72. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein a second portion of said structure lies adjacent a posterior surface of a left ventricle.

73. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein said device encircles at least one chamber of the natural heart.

74. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 73, wherein said first portion of said structure lies adjacent a basal surface of said chamber of the natural heart.

75. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 73, wherein said chamber is a ventricle.

76. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 73, wherein said chamber is a chamber other than a ventricle.

77. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 73, wherein said second portion of said structure lies adjacent an apical surface of said chamber of the natural heart.

78. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 77, wherein said chamber is a ventricle.

79. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 66, wherein said device has an inner surface and said inner surface is convex toward the surface of the natural heart.